The Shadow

By

Steve Bjork

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The Shadow is a Ram Drive shadow for a Color Computer with 512k and one or more disk drives. This program adds to Disk Extended Color Basic up to 80 tracks of high speed shadow ram to one or two drives.

The Shadow's is more then just a Ram Drive. A Ram Drive will lose all it's data if the system crashes or loses power. Shadow copies the data to the disk anytime a write is done to insure against loss of data that Ram Drives are known for.

The Shadow can handle up to two drives of 40 tracks each or one 80 track drive.

Any drives that are shadowed by this program will flash. If a disk is removed from a flashing drive The Shadow will automatically reset The Shadow's ram and start fresh from each disk. (Note: anytime a disk is switched, this resetting is need to make sure that the old disk data is not written to the new disk by mistake.)

The flashing of the drives lights is also a status that shows The Shadow is still working. If for any reason the lights should stop flashing then The Shadow should not be used with that program.

To remove The Shadow from your computer press the reset key.

Customizing

The master copy of The Shadow that comes with the disk is for drive 0. By running the program called CUSTOM/BAS on The Shadow disk, a new custom version can be created.

First you will ask the size of you drives. If you have 35 or 40 track drives then you may shadow more then one drive.

After answering all the questions, the computer will save the custom version of The Shadow. To use the custom version, type in.....

LOADM "filename": EXEC <enter>

The "filename" is the name of the file you told the custom program to save The Shadow as.

With in a few seconds the lights of the drives shadow by the program will start to flash. Now do a DIR command. This command will take the same length of time as normal but now try it one more time. The second time it was lighting fast. Why? The first time the sectors for the Directory were not in the Shadows's ram so the program had to read them in for the disk. The next time you did a DIR command the sectors where already in The Shadow's ram so this happen many times faster.

The first time a file is read in, the disk will have to be read into The Shadow's Ram just like the DIR command before. Before the next time a file is load it will be grab from the Shadow's Ram at a high speed.

If a file is written to the disk, the data will be copied to both the real disk and The Shadow's ram. In this way, the data is safe from a system crash or loss of power.

If for any reason a disk is removed from the flashing drives, The Shadow will automatically reset it's ram drive and start reading data fresh from the disks on the next read. This is so if a disk is changed the old data will not be written to the new disk by mistake.

You should note that The Shadow uses all memory from $00000 to $5FFFF for it's copies of the disk's data. Any programs that use this memory should not be used with The Shadow.

Warranty Notice

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Replacement Notice

The program can be replaced (because of disk failure) by sending the original disk with $4.00 (check or Money Order) to cover S/H to:

SRB Software, Department C
10901 Topeka Dr.
Northridge, CA. 91326